



NEW BRITISH FLEAS.

NEW BRITISH FLEAS (PLATE IV).

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CERATOPHYLLUS GAREI, *sp. nov.*, Pl. iv, figs. 1—3.

Closely allied to *C. gallinæ*, Schrank, from which species it can be easily distinguished by the form of the eighth sternite in the ♂ (fig. 2), and by that of the seventh sternite in the ♀ (fig. 3). The prothoracic comb consists of twenty-six teeth.

Length, 2.5 mm.

Ten specimens of this species were secured from the nest of a waterhen (*Gallinula chloropus*) in July last near Tring. The late Mr. E. C. Rye* mentions a flea as occurring on the waterhen, but we have failed to find any description of it. The present species is named in honour of Mr. George Gare, of Wembdon, Bridgwater, who has done much to further the knowledge of the fleas parasitic on birds.

CERATOPHYLLUS WALKERI, *sp. nov.*, Pl. iv, figs. 4, 5, 7.

Closely allied to *C. lagomys*, Wagner, a non-British species, under which name it was recorded on our identification in Verrall's list of British *Diptera* (last edition). Since the publication of that work, however, we have received typical examples of *C. lagomys* from Dr. Wagner, and are now able to decide that the present species is abundantly distinct. The type specimen of the present species was forwarded to us by Mr. J. J. Walker, who found it in a deserted mouse nest in March, 1898, at Chattenden in Kent. We have, however, received subsequently other specimens from *Mustela erminea* and *M. vulgaris* (Tring), *Sorex vulgaris* (Bevandean, Sussex), *Microtus glareolus* (Tring and Oundle), *Microtus amphibius* (Tring), and "Hedge clippings" (Chesham).

C. Walkeri is a very dark species, measuring 3 mm. in length. The prothoracic comb consists of eighteen teeth. The ninth tergite of the ♂ is drawn in fig. 4. The eighth tergite of the ♂ is shown in fig. 5, and is readily distinguished from that of *C. lagomys*, Wagner, fig. 6 inserted for comparison. The seventh sternite of the ♀ (fig. 7) is deeply sinuate, somewhat resembling that of *C. Newsteadi*.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE IV.

- Fig. 1—*Ceratophyllus Garei*..... ♂9th tergite.
 " 2— " " ♂8th sternite.
 " 3— " " ♀7th "
 " 4—*Ceratophyllus Walkeri*..... ♂9th tergite.
 " 5— " " ♂8th sternite.
 " 6—*Ceratophyllus lagomys* ♂8th "
 " 7—*Ceratophyllus Walkeri*..... ♀7th "

Tring Park, Tring: September, 1902.

* Encyclopædia Britannica, 9th edition, vol. ix, p. 301, 1879.